

Contact: Jo Ellen Green Kaiser; 415-878-3862

joellen@themediaconsortium.com

[joellen@themediaconsortium.com](mailto:joellen@themediaconsortium.com)

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**INDEPENDENT MEDIA SECTOR GRABS MAJOR 2012 JOURNALISM AWARDS**

**Sector’s maturity seen with prizes across outlets**

San Francisco, CA—June 20, 2012. Independent media outlets won 6 top journalism awards this month alone, including an Edward R. Murrow award, a Hillman Prize, and the 2012 Martha Gellhorn Prize.

This June award sweep demonstrates the growing impact of the independent media sector, as independent outlets replace corporate-held news outlets as go-to sources for investigative and feature reporting. According to Media Consortium Executive Director Jo Ellen Green Kaiser, “Independent media outlets increasingly are filling holes in the corporate media ecosystem; we are mission-driven to provide exactly this kind of in-depth coverage.”

This year’s [Edward R. Murrow Award in Online News Operation: Audio Investigative Reporting](http://www.rtdna.org/pages/media_items/2012-national-edward-r.-murrow-award-winners2089.php?g=67?id=2089) went to [The Lens](thelensnola.org) and the [George Washington Williams Center for Independent Journalism](http://conference.freepress.net/presenter/369/linda-jue) for a [story by Bob Butler and Jessica Williams](http://thelensnola.org/2011/12/23/kisa-holmes-six-years-later/) on one woman’s efforts to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina.

The 2012 Martha Gellhorn Prize for Journalism was awarded to Gareth Porter for [his reporting on the Obama administration’s military strategy](http://archive.truthout.org/articles/by-author/external/Gareth+Porter?page=1) for [Truthout](http://truth-out.org/news/item/9817-truthout-contributor-gareth-porter-wins-prestigious-journalism-award) and the [Interpress News Service](http://www.ips.org/institutional/).

The 19th annual [Media for a Just Society Awards](http://www.nccdglobal.org/newsroom/media-for-a-just-society-awards/past-winners)  recognized the [National Radio Project](http://www.radioproject.org/)’s Andrew Stelzer, Kyung Jin Lee and Daniel Gordon for their work on *Making Contact's* [report on gang injunctions.](http://www.radioproject.org/2011/12/gang-injunctions-problem-or-solution/).

[Mother Jones](http://www.motherjones.com/), together with UC Berkeley’s Investigative Journalism Program, received the first [International Data Journalism Award](http://datajournalismawards.org/) for Trevor Anderson’s [reporting on FBI informants in U.S. Muslim communities](http://www.motherjones.com/special-reports/2011/08/fbi-terrorist-informants). The same story also received [The Molly Ivins National Journalism Prize](http://www.texasobserver.org/mollyawardsubmissions).

Reporter Seth Freed Wessler at [Colorlines.com](http://colorlines.com) received the [2012 Hillman Prize for Web Journalism](http://www.hillmanfoundation.org/blog/announcing-2012-hillman-prizes) for his [reporting on U.S. citizen children](http://colorlines.com/archives/2011/11/thousands_of_kids_lost_in_foster_homes_after_parents_deportation.html) whose parents are deported by the U.S. Immigration Service.

Six of these award-winners are members of the Media Consortium, a national network of independent media outlets. For more information, please contact

Jo Ellen Green Kaiser, 415-878-3862; joellen@themediaconsortium.com